

Message Text

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12-L

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 L-03 SAM-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE-TEDEAL:DPB

APPROVED BY EUR-JAARMITAGE

EUR/WE:EROWELL

EUR/EE:CBROWN

BIB:WROBERTS

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P 210319Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041791

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ARMITAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SOPN

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

REF: (A) MADRID 1159 (B) MADRID 1247

1. BIB BOARD CHAIRMAN ABSHIRE HAS HAD TO POSTPONE EUROPEAN TRIP DUE TO CHANGE IN DATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON BIB FUNDING. HOWEVER, ABSHIRE WILL RESCHEDULE VISIT TO MADRID FOR LATTER PART OF WEEK OF MARCH 15. BIB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WALTER ROBERTS AND RFE/RL PRESIDENT MICKELSON COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS IN MADRID AT ANY TIME YOU DEEM ADVISABLE, ALTHOUGH THEY TOO WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS (FEB. 25, MARCH 4, MARCH 9) AND BIB BOARD MEETINGS (MARCH 10 AND 11)

2. BIB WOULD, OF COURSE, PREFER TO CONCLUDE A NEW
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AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE RL THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE

OPERATIONS IN SPAIN ON A LONG-TERM BASIS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE SPANISH ARE UNWILLING TO GO THAT FAR, PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY FOR AN EXTENSION OF PRESENT LEASE FOR AT LEAST A THREE YEAR PERIOD. IF GOS WILL GO FOR SIMPLE

EXTENSION, WE OUGHT TO TEST THIS LONGER PERIOD BEFORE CONSIDERING ONE YEAR WHICH WOULD DUMP PROBLEMS BACK IN OUR LAPS SO SOON. IN EITHER CASE, WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD KEEP THE RL QUESTION FROM BEING ENTANGLED WITH OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS REPORTED IN MADRID 1247, TO WHICH A MORE DETAILED RESPONSE IS BEING PREPARED.

3. FYI: WE SHOULD TRY TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MOVE TO ALTERNATE SITE IN SPAIN IF WE CAN. IT WOULD REQUIRE UP TO THREE YEARS TO CONSTRUCT NEW FACILITIES ELSEWHERE AND IT IS QUITE COSTLY. WE CAN RETURN TO THIS IDEA IF PRESSURES SUBSEQUENTLY BUILD BEHIND IT. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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